

## Int'l. Fishing and Related Activities

## § 300.21

### § 300.20 Purpose and scope.

The regulations in this subpart implement the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 (Act) and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975. The regulations provide a mechanism to carry out the recommendations of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) for the conservation and management of highly migratory fish resources in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean so far as they affect vessels and persons subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. They also carry out the recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas for the conservation of bluefin tuna, so far as they affect vessels and persons subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

[64 FR 44430, Aug. 16, 1999]

### § 300.21 Definitions.

In addition to the terms defined in § 300.2, in the Act, the Convention for the Establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, and the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, the terms used in this subpart have the following meanings. If a term is defined differently in § 300.2, the Act, or the Conventions, the definition in this section shall apply.

*Bigeye tuna* means the species *Thunnus obesus*.

*Bluefin tuna* means the fish species *Thunnus thynnus* that is found in any ocean area.

*Commission's Yellowfin Regulatory Area (CYRA)* means the waters bounded by a line extending westward from the mainland of North America along the 40° N. latitude parallel, and connecting the following coordinates:

40° N. lat., 125° W. long.;  
20° N. lat., 125° W. long.;  
20° N. lat., 120° W. long.;  
5° N. lat., 120° W. long.;  
5° N. lat., 110° W. long.;  
10° S. lat., 110° W. long.;  
10° S. lat., 90° W. long.;  
30° S. lat., 90° W. long.; and then eastward along the 30° S. latitude parallel to the coast of South America.

*Convention Area* means the waters within the area bounded by the mainland of the Americas, lines extending

westward from the mainland of the Americas along the 40° N. lat. and 40° S. lat., and 150° W. long.

*Fish aggregating device (FAD)* means a manmade raft or other floating object used to attract tuna and make them available to fishing vessels.

*Fishing trip* means a period of time between landings when fishing is conducted.

*Fishing vessel* means any vessel, boat, ship, or other craft that is used for, equipped to be used for, or of a type that is normally used for fishing or for assisting or supporting a vessel engaged in fishing, except purse seine skiffs.

*Floating object* means any natural object or FAD around which fishing vessels may catch tuna.

*Incidental catch* or *incidental species* means species caught while fishing with the primary purpose of catching a different species. An incidental catch is expressed as a percentage of the weight of the total fish on board.

*Land* or *Landing* means to begin transfer of fish from a fishing vessel. Once transfer begins, all fish on board the vessel are counted as part of the landing.

*Observer* means an individual placed aboard a fishing vessel under the IATTC observer program or any other international observer program in which the United States may participate.

*Pacific bluefin tuna* means the subspecies of bluefin tuna *Thunnus thynnus orientalis* that is found in the Pacific Ocean.

*Regional Administrator* means the Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, or his designee.

*Tag* means the dealer tag, a flexible self-locking ribbon issued by NMFS for the identification of bluefin tuna under § 300.26, or the BSD tag specified under § 635.42 (a)(2) of this title.

*Tender vessel* means a vessel that does not engage in purse seine fishing but tends to FADs in support of tuna fishing operations.

*Transship* means to unload fish from a vessel that caught fish to another vessel.

*Transshipment receiving vessel* means any vessel, boat, ship, or other craft

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that is used to receive fish from a fishing vessel.

[61 FR 35550, July 5, 1996, as amended at 64 FR 29133, May 28, 1999; 64 FR 44430, Aug. 16, 1999]

### § 300.22 Yellowfin tuna—Record-keeping and written reports.

The master or other person in charge of a fishing vessel, or a person authorized in writing to serve as the agent for either person, must keep an accurate log of all operations conducted from the fishing vessel, entering for each day the date, noon position (stated in latitude and longitude or in relation to known physical features), and the tonnage of fish on board, by species. The record and bridge log maintained at the request of the IATTC shall be sufficient to comply with this paragraph, provided the items of information specified are accurately entered in the log.

### § 300.23 Yellowfin tuna—Persons and vessels exempted.

This subpart does not apply to:

(a) Any person or vessel authorized by the IATTC, the Assistant Administrator, or any state of the United States to engage in fishing for research purposes.

(b) Any person or vessel engaged in sport fishing for personal use.

### § 300.24 Pacific bluefin tuna—Dealer permits.

(a) *General.* A dealer importing Pacific bluefin tuna, or purchasing or receiving for export Pacific bluefin tuna first landed in the United States, must have a valid permit issued under this section.

(b) *Application.* A dealer must apply for a permit in writing on an appropriate form obtained from NMFS. The application must be signed by the dealer and be submitted to NMFS at least 30 days before the date upon which the dealer desires to have the permit made effective. The application must contain the following information: Company name, principal place of business, owner's or owners' names, applicant's name (if different from owner or owners) and mailing address and telephone number, and any other information required by NMFS.

(c) *Issuance.* (1) Except as provided in subpart D of 15 CFR part 904, NMFS will issue a permit within 30 days of receipt of a completed application.

(2) NMFS will notify the applicant of any deficiency in the application. If the applicant fails to correct the deficiency within 15 days following the date of notification, the application will be considered abandoned.

(d) *Duration.* Any permit issued under this section is valid until December 31 of the year for which it is issued, unless suspended or revoked.

(e) *Alteration.* Any permit that is substantially altered, erased, or mutilated is invalid.

(f) *Replacement.* NMFS may issue replacement permits. An application for a replacement permit is not considered a new application.

(g) *Transfer.* A permit issued under this section is not transferable or assignable; it is valid only for the dealer to whom it is issued.

(h) *Inspection.* The dealer must keep the permit issued under this section at his/her principal place of business. The permit must be displayed for inspection upon request of any authorized officer, or any employee of NMFS designated by NMFS for such purpose.

(i) *Sanctions.* The Assistant Administrator may suspend, revoke, modify, or deny a permit issued or sought under this section. Procedures governing permit sanctions and denials are found at subpart D of 15 CFR part 904.

(j) *Fees.* NMFS may charge a fee to recover the administrative expenses of permit issuance. The amount of the fee is calculated, at least annually, in accordance with the procedures of the NOAA Finance Handbook, available from NMFS, for determining administrative costs of each special product or service. The fee may not exceed such costs and is specified on each application form. The appropriate fee must accompany each application. Failure to pay the fee will preclude issuance of the permit. Payment by a commercial instrument later determined to be insufficiently funded shall invalidate any permit.

(k) *Change in application information.* Within 15 days after any change in the information contained in an application submitted under this section, the